

Fable 2

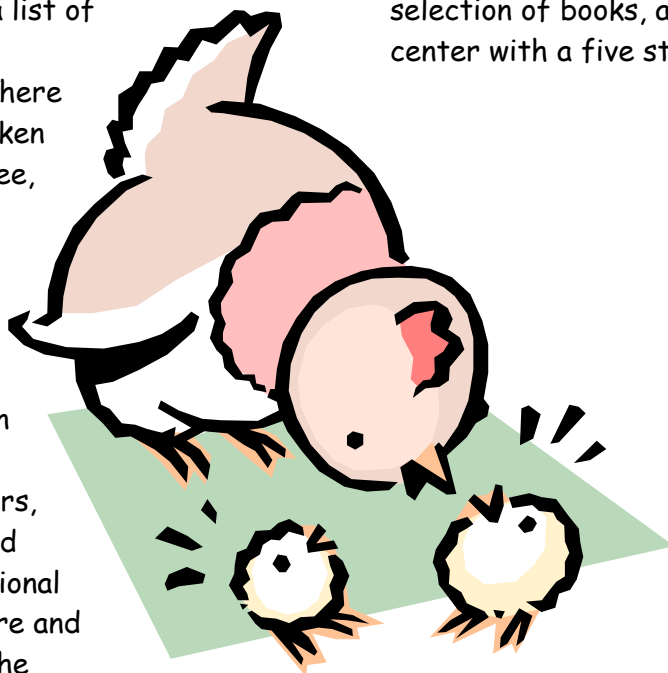
Kathy Hetzel, Family Living Educator, Dodge County

More recently than once upon a time, Mother Hen was offered a job at Empire Egg Company. She was well qualified to be supervisor of egg production, but she was concerned about chicken care. Her long hours required her to find care outside of the nest and her modest salary required her to carefully consider her options. An intelligent chicken she was, so she looked up "Wisconsin Quality Cares for Quality Kids" on the Chicken Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) web site. The site supplied her with a list of chicken care centers with openings in the farmyard. There were stars next to the chicken care centers. One, two, three, four and five stars.

Wow! This was incredibly easy! One site that describes quality! The star rating included an evaluation of the educational qualifications of the teachers, the learning environment and curriculum, and the professional practices of family child care and group centers. Of course, she wanted her chickens to go to the highest quality center she could afford. So she called the centers with four and five stars: Chicken Corner and Rainbow Care. Little Chickens only had two stars, so she would call them later. The four and five star centers were charging similar rates.

and see how the chickens would fit in. Mother Hen asked some specific questions that had been provided to her: How many other chickens will be in the classrooms with my chickens? Do you read to all chickens every day? What type of outdoor playground do you have? They liked both centers.

This year Mother Hen chose the center closest to her nest, the one with the smallest number of chickens in each room, the one with the best selection of books, a great playground and a center with a five star rating!



Mother Hen toured the centers and her chickens spent time in the rooms with other chickens. She had time to talk with the teachers